(d) The Government have reduced the retail prices of kerosene for public distribution and domestic LPG by around Re. 1.00/litre and Rs. 10/Cylinder effective November 22, 2000. The estimated impact of these adjustments on oil pool during the current financial year would be about Rs. 600 crore.

Supply of gas to APL

1712. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the difficulty in supplying gas to Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (APL), which uses only a little amount of gas, at the price agreed with the RAPL for building Gas Cracker Unit in Assam; and

(b) whether Government propose to supply the gas at this rate to remove the difficulties faced by the APL and thus save it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the importance of the Assam Gas Cracker Project for the economic development of Assam, the Government in 1994, took a one time decision to supply gas for this project at the concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand cubic meters (MCM) for a period of 15 years. The Government does not propose to extend such a concession for any other project. For all other consumers in North Eastern Region, including those in the Power Sector, the consumer price of natural gas is currently linked to 45% of the international price of fuel oil with a ceiling price of Rs. 1700 per MCM. Further, there is a provision to allow a discount of Rs. 300 per MCM on a case to case basis for natural gas consumers in the North Eastern Region.

Supply of cooking gas through pipeline

1713. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cooking gas is made available through pipeline to residential areas in major cities;